



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1905-05-16

Letter from [John Muir] to Mrs. Irvine L. Lenroot, 1905 May 16.

John Muir

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May 16th 1905

Mrs. Irvine L. Lennart
Superior Wis.

Dear madam

It is wonderful how plain
stories are mixed &
confounded & made false
leaving not a single fact
in any of them but only
the ghost of a fact.

The signal story abt T die of
Linnæa you will find in T
art Linnæus in "T² World's
Best Lit." ^{editions} by Chas. Dudley
Warner, wh I supp you will
easily find. There are T
on outlines of T story.

I have just left Lin died
asa Gray. Six do. Books
& I were looking on
at Shasta ^{our} camp was
in a good forest of silver

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fir. Aft sup I built a big
fire, & T Glouse & T tree
illuminated by T firelight
seemed to be look on
& listen - as we talked.
Gray told many a story
of his life & so did books.
Of course we talked
of trees, but it was not
what was said in fore
of our good fir & cedars
firs & pines. It was not
forem T night - It was
what was sd of T lowly
fragrant ^{fragrant} of Lin -
Linnæa borealis. Aft
a pause in T flow of
our hot conversation - J. Gray
suddenl sd "mine, why
do you not find Linnæa
in Cal? It must be

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have or here at all, for species
 he been at me from
 Wash & Oregon, & I
 think you should be find it
 he at Shasta or a
 little way north of here.
 I replied "I think have
 always been a few of
 mine ever since I began
 to work in T wilderness
 I have found many of its com-
~~relatives & neighbors~~ relatives in
 T High Sierra woods &
 around T glacier's mouth
 but this itself I have not
 yet found. "Nevertheless" said Gray
 "T. blanchi's ^{little} yellow must
 be ~~his~~ ~~about~~ no
 get-dis off ~~the~~ here".
 Then we wrapped ourselves
 in our blankets & fell

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asleep with our minds
 full of *Limnæa*. Mr.
 A. M. Gray covered his
 work at T Mt., while Brooks
 & I made an excursion 8 or
 10 miles to T northward. At
 noon, after ford- over of T
 branches of T upper Sac.,
 we noticed a gem carried
 on T bank and of course
 we did not at first see
 for it was not in
 bloom. Brooks look-
 ed at it and said "white
 II?" Then we both dis-
 tinguished our ponies &
 pluck - specimens Brooks
 said "Is it *Limnæa*?
 its awfully like it." Then
 find I saw of T wash &
 flowers he explained "It is

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